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Thursday, May 8 - Wednesday, May 14, 2014

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE

See the new section inside

Councillor criticises delay in putting strategy in place

FLOOD PLANS 'ARE TOO LATE'

AN OXFORD politician has criticised the county council for acting too late in putting plans in place to prevent the city from flooding.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Oxfordshire County Council is currently drawing up a flood risk strategy and the cabinet will meet next Tuesday to discuss sustainable drainage plans for new builds.

This will see developers who want to build developments of 10 or more homes have to submit sustainable drainage plans before work can begin.

Otherwise known as sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), the system works by slowly holding back water with the use of swales and filter drains.

• *Continued on page 3*

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Waitrose set to be given green light

By **Katriona Ormiston**
katriona@taylornewspapers.co.uk

PROPOSALS for a new supermarket on Botley Road were expected to be given planning approval last night.

Councillors were due to make a final decision on whether Waitrose can build a 24,500 sq ft store on the former Halfords and MFI site as the Journal went to print last night.

Officers recommended the project for approval despite admitting "the proposals are likely to worsen existing severe traffic congestion along Botley Road".

Up to 160 new jobs will be created and 148 parking spaces could be open next year.

The 1980s former-MFI building, which is currently home to a temporary Cancer Research UK shop, would be bulldozed as part of the plans.

Residents both supported and opposed the plans.

Earl Street resident Caroline Webber said: "I don't think we need a big supermarket there and we have major traffic problems as it is on Botley Road.

"But something has got to go there so we are stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"I would sooner not see more traffic on Botley Road, but it is a horrid building at the moment.

"I'd rather see some affordable housing for young people, but that's probably not going to happen."

• An artist's impression of the proposed Waitrose Store on Botley Road

Vale of White Horse District Council opposed the plans, saying it could threaten Botley's West Way shopping centre.

Plans for a £100m revamp of West Way has been submitted to VOWHDC by developers Doric Properties.

They include a supermarket, cinema, hotel, gym, and shops.

A VOWHDC statement said: "Botley is the town centre that is most likely to be affected by the proposed development.

"The applicant has not considered the potential for the proposed store to be located within the proposed new West Way development, which is a more sustainable location."

Doric also opposed the plans saying the proposed site was the wrong place for a supermarket.

For the final decision see next Thursday's Oxford Journal or, alternatively, go to oxfordjournal.co.uk.

News Bites

Repatriation

OXON: Five soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan last month were repatriated in Oxfordshire on Tuesday afternoon.

Captain Tom Clarke, Corporal James Walters, Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan and Warrant Officer 2 Spencer Faulkner died after their Lynx helicopter came down in a routine flight on April 26.

Hundreds of people lined the streets in Carterton for the repatriation service on Tuesday, before the bodies of the soldiers were taken to Headington's John Radcliffe Hospital.

Mayor of Carterton Lynn Little said: "It was a very moving and sad occasion, and we hope we don't get many more.

"It was such a tragic accident and the loss of five young men, but I'm very proud of my community and the people who looked after all these families."

Armed robbery

SUMMERTOWN: Two robbers who stole cash from a Post Office in Woodstock Road on Tuesday, were forced to flee the scene on foot after being apprehended by members of the public.

At about 12.50pm, two men entered the shop, one holding a pole, and threatened the cashier.

Members of the public were ushered out of the store and a quantity of money was taken from the counter.

The offenders attempted to leave on bicycles and were stopped by members of the public, but subsequently fled the scene on foot.

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Man jailed for burglary

AN OXFORD man has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment after he stole £400 from a Harpsichord Place property in November last year.

Adam Kupka (right), 26, of Banbury Road, pleaded guilty to burglary at Oxford Crown Court last Wednesday, where he was also ordered to pay £400 to the victim.

Det Con Emma Thompson, investigating officer, said: "Burglary is an unpleasant crime, which leaves victims out of pocket and anxious.

"Tackling and disrupting criminals who prey on our communities in Oxford is a priority.

"This is the latest in a series of good results and we are determined to continue to work with other agencies and the communities of Oxford and surrounding areas to do all we can to prevent criminals operating in the city.

"In terms of the prison sentence, justice has been served and the victim can now move on with their lives."

Save TCP unveil plans to residents

A COMMUNITY group who are hoping to keep Temple Cowley Pools (TCP) open have shown their plans to local residents in a public consultation on Saturday.

Save TCP have until October to put together their bid to keep the site open, as well as incorporating the Barns Road Community Centre.

Candidates for the upcoming city council elections were invited to attend the event, with several turning up to voice their support.

Nigel Gibson, from Save TCP, said: "The response was great, we had hundreds of people turn up and have a look at what we've been doing.

"For the most part the public were incredibly supportive, and it was a whole mix of people as well.

"There was a fair number of Blackbird Leys people as well who you might think would want the new pool, but they were all saying 'keep Temple Cowley Pools open' because it's a natural place for them to come."

Save TCP have until October to complete their bid, when it will be considered by Oxford City Council.

Councillor labels delay for plans as 'ridiculous'

· *From front page*

However, Susanna Pressel, ward member for Jericho and Osney on the city and county council, says these types of plans are too late.

Cllr Pressel said: "It is such a pity that this strategy has been so delayed.

"It should have been consulted on two years ago.

"I don't know why it has taken so long, it is absolutely ridiculous, because there have been consequences from the delay.

"People haven't been working together as well as they could have done, we haven't had our act together in trying to get the Western Conveyance Channel accepted."

She added: "With regard to SUDS, I'm not quite sure what the county's role is because it is the city council that has been pursuing it as far as planning applications are concerned.

"I'm glad the county council has at last started to take an interest as well and I hope money will be wisely spent."

Rodney Rose, deputy leader of the county council, points to the Kingsmere development in Bicester as an example of affective planning and installation of SUDS.

With 100,000 homes needed in the county by 2031, Cllr Rose says the plans will help prevent Oxford's flooding situation from getting worse.

He said: "We are in a position that if this rain fall continues, as it did this winter, we will be getting more problems with flooding.

• *Flooding affects a playground in Botley Road earlier in the year (Picture by Adam Flinn)*

"The idea of this sustainable drainage set-up is that hopefully we will not at least let this situation get worse."

However, Peter Rawcliffe, of Oxford Flood Alliance, says it will not help to solve bigger flooding problems across the county.

"It will stem the flow so basically it may help areas when there is flash flooding," he said.

"I don't think it will deal with the massive rain fall that we saw in December and January when the Cotswolds was drowned and it all came down to us, but it is very welcome and it is going in the right direction."

Mohammad Afzal, owner of the Nisa convenience store on the Abingdon Road, which was affected by the flooding earlier this year, says something has to be done.

"They need to clean the rivers and they have to take the water away from Abingdon Road," he said.

"I'm hoping they will do something about it before we get to the situation that we were in last time.

"You don't want to close the roads in the main city, that is a dreadful thing to do."

News Bites

Funding boost to support services

OXON: Anthony Stansfeld, police and crime commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley, has announced new funding arrangements to help support victims' services.

Before introducing fully commissioned services by April 2015, a grant application fund of £600,000 has been opened to support specialist services.

Part of the PCC's preparations for the Thames Valley is to ensure that in-depth victims' needs assessments are completed by the end of this month.

Laptop taken in Boars Hill burglary

BOARS HILL: A laptop was stolen following a burglary at a house in Old Boars Hill, Oxford, on Monday.

Between 6.45pm and 10pm, offenders gained entry to the property and stole the item.

Anyone with information should contact Det Con Chris Leech on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Get active and get walking

OXFORD: Members of the public are being encouraged to take part in the city's last event for Get Walking Week tomorrow.

Friday's event sets off at Bury Knowle Park, Headington, at 10am and is free to attend.

Vicki Galvin, scheme coordinator, said: "Walking is such a wonderful way to get to know your local area and make new friends."

Consultation launched for Cowley Road Post Office relocation

RESIDENTS are being asked about their views on a proposed new location for an Oxford post office, which would offer additional services and longer opening hours.

The branch on Cowley Road would move further down the street to the current Honest Stationery unit.

A consultation was launched at the beginning of the month to ask customers for comments about the move, and will run until June 12.

Will Russell, Post Office regional network manager for England South, said: "We understand how important having a post office is to residents in Oxford.

"We are confident this new modern post office will meet the needs of the local community.

"This modernisation is part of a major investment programme, the largest in the history of the Post Office, and marks a commitment to no more branch closure programmes."

It is proposed the move would take place in July, and would open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm, and on Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

To leave a comment, go to postofficeviews.co.uk and quote the branch code: 090137.

In a separate announcement, the Post Office has said their Littlemore branch will close for refurbishment between May 20 and 30. When it reopens, it will have increased opening hours and more services available.

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Residents gather for May Morning festivities in city

• *Alasdair De Voil takes to the soapbox as part of the May Morning celebrations*

THOUSANDS of people gathered in Oxford last Thursday for the annual May Morning celebrations.

Revellers made their way to Magdalen College at 6am to hear the choir sing the Hymnus Eucharisticus, before watching Morris dancers perform at various sites across the city.

In Broad Street, Oxford's residents were given the chance to voice their opinions and address the public from a soapbox.

And Oxford City Council, Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance Service said that the festivities passed without incident, with no reports of people jumping into the River Cherwell from Magdalen Bridge.

Rachel Capell, city events officer at the council, said: "We are pleased with how the event went.

"We have been working hard with our partners to ensure that the event would be safe for everyone to enjoy.

"Our security team did a great job throughout the morning and it was great to see approximately 5,000 people celebrating the start of spring at this unique and traditional Oxford event."

Supt Christian Bunt, Oxford local policing area commander, said: "I am pleased to say that there were no problems and no arrests made, and the security operation ran very well.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"I was out on patrol throughout the evening for the night-time celebrations and there was a good atmosphere and everyone appeared to be enjoying the festivities."

Aubrey Bell, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust's area manager for Oxfordshire, added: "We are delighted that the May Morning event passed without major incident.

"From a medical perspective, five people were treated for minor injuries related to the May Morning revelry.

"We are extremely grateful that the public heeded our advice not to jump in the river, and would like to thank the volunteers for assisting."

The May Morning celebrations in Oxford have been running since 1509, with various activities taking place across the city.

News Bites

Wetter winters are predicted

OXFORD: Experts at Oxford University are predicting more extreme rainfall during winter months due to climate change.

Researchers from the weather@home project, based at the School of Geography and the Environment, say the risk of a very wet winter has increased by 25 per cent.

Dr Friederike Otto from the weather@home project said: "Forms of pollution have 'loaded the weather dice' so the probability of the south of England experiencing extremely wet winters again has slightly increased."

Heart awareness

HEADINGTON: Specialist heart failure nurses at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Oxford, are hosting an awareness day for the condition tomorrow.

Nurses will be on hand to talk about the symptoms of the condition as part of European Heart Failure Awareness Day.

The stand will be on Level 2 in the main hospital building, near the League of Friends tea bar, from 10am to 3pm.

Minister visits Oxford to talk about tackling exploitation

SLAVERY and exploitation were two of the topics tackled at a roundtable event in the city last Thursday, hosted by Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood.

Police, social workers and charities spoke about the realities of tackling slavery and exploitation in the community.

The event, held at St Aldate's Parish Centre, was attended by the minister for modern slavery and organised crime Karen Bradley MP, county council leader Ian Hudspeth and Supt Andy Boyd.

It comes almost a year after seven men were found guilty in the Operation Bullfinch trial - a two-year investigation into child sexual exploitation in Oxford.

Ms Blackwood said: "Operation Bullfinch and related cases mean that here in Oxfordshire, we have learnt that crimes involving the exploitation of the most vulnerable must be tackled through victim-centred strategies.

"We know that the only way you will secure convictions against slave masters and organised crime gangs is through innovative joint working between agencies.

"This event was about making sure Oxfordshire, with our growing expertise in this area, got a chance to play its role in ensuring the Modern Slavery Bill is as effective as possible."

News Bite

Bear in Youlbury

BOARS HILL: Over 500 Scouts will be joined by chief scout, Bear Grylls, on Saturday for a day of activities and celebrations at Youlbury Scout camp.

Scouts who have achieved top awards will be presented with certificates while they will also have the chance to try high ropes, rock climbing and stacking.

Sarah Joyner, who organised the event, said: "We're very excited to be welcoming Bear to Oxfordshire. We've kept his visit as a closely guarded secret, so I can't wait to see everyone's reaction."

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Girls claim top robotics award in competition

• *The winning students from Headington School*

GIRLS from an Oxford school proved their engineering skills as they were crowned champions of the Student Robotics Competition 2014.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Nine girls in Years 11, 12 and 13 from Headington School beat off competition from 53 other teams to win the event, held at Newbury Racecourse on April 26 and 27.

The group were one of just two all-girls teams entered in the competition, known to be the largest robotics contests of its kind outside the USA.

Teams had been tasked with building a robot from scratch that was capable of collecting boxes, rotating them and placing them in specified areas.

The Headington School team had been working on the project since October last year, to design, build and programme their robot to complete the various challenges.

Matt Howe, head of ICT at the school, said: "Girls experience a whole range of skills, including coding in Python, soldering, basic carpentry and metalwork.

"Most importantly they are taught to learn through trial and error, and not to fear getting things wrong.

"We actively encourage our girls to push their learning beyond what they are comfortable with, to take risks and try things out, experiment with ideas, get things wrong, evaluate the results and develop better solutions.

"The competition was very good this year, so we are very pleased to have won the trophy for overall first place."

Student Emma Isle has applied to study engineering at university following her experience in the competition.

She said: "It was really good fun to be there. We got to meet a lot of other people who were similar to ourselves, and it was good to see our robot doing so well.

"It's been a really good experience, just getting together as a group and working on the robot."

Fellow student Rebecca Colquhan added: "We were definitely outnumbered as girls, so it was really good that we could still be the best at it."

County council continue scam mail crack down

'SCAMNESTY' boxes have appeared across Oxfordshire this week, as part of a county council campaign to disrupt rogue trader activity in the area.

Residents are being asked to drop any scam mail they receive into the boxes, which will be collected and shared with Trading Standards teams nationwide.

It is hoped the campaign will highlight the tactics used by con artists, and raise awareness of the scams that fraudsters use.

Richard Webb, manager of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service, said: "We want to highlight tactics used by unscrupulous rogue traders.

"One of the ways to crack down on scammers attempting to fleece money out of people through the post is to give residents a place where they can dump these unwanted letters.

"We will collect all the letters posted in the 'scamnesty' boxes and, by sharing our results with those from other parts of the country, we will get a much clearer picture of the scale of the problem and how to tackle it."

Within the city, boxes have been places in the Central, Blackbird Leys, Cowley, Headington and Summertown libraries, Oxford's Citizens Advice Bureau, and also at the Horspath Driftway health and wellbeing centre.

News Bites

Improvisation

ST ALDATE'S: Renowned improvised comedy group The Oxford Imps are performing at The Old Museum next week.

The Imps will perform in various styles that the audience shout at them to create sketches, games, stories and songs on the spot.

It takes place on Friday, May 16, from 7.15pm to 10.30pm. For more information or to book, go to oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford.

Witness appeal

COWLEY: Police are appealing for a taxi driver who stopped to help a woman who fell off her bike last week to come forward.

At around 3.45pm last Thursday, officers found a 49-year-old woman in Oxford Road, who had come off of her bike.

The victim was taken to hospital with concussion and bruising to her head and body.

Police believe a taxi driver helped the woman prior to the officers arriving, and would like to speak to the driver or anyone who witnessed the incident to find out what happened.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Naomi Voysey from Abingdon Roads Policing on 101, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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New Welsh boss hopes to establish club in county

• *Mike Stevens is the new CEO at London Welsh (Picture courtesy of London Welsh)*

LONDON Welsh's new chief executive officer is promising to improve the match-day experience at the Kassam Stadium and ensure the club becomes an established Oxfordshire club.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Mike Stevens, 44, from Abingdon, spent seven years at Aviva Premiership club Leicester Tigers as commercial manager, and will take up the position at the rugby club on May 12.

The Exiles are currently vying for a return to the top-flight of English rugby and face Leeds Carnegie in the first leg of the Greene King IPA Championship semi-finals on May 11.

While returning to the Premiership is the ideal situation, Mr Stevens says the club is prepared to be a Championship club next season.

He said: "We have plans in place for both eventualities. We desperately want to be in the Premiership, but also from a commercial perspective we are ready for the eventuality that it is Championship.

"Going into the play-off there are four very good teams that are vying for one spot so there will be one happy team and three unhappy teams. We are ready for both."

Welsh welcome Leeds to the Kassam for the second semi-final on May 18. Under 16s can watch for £1.

Mr Stevens added: "A key area for me in the summer period is to work on the matchday product with the businesses and people of Oxfordshire."

It was confirmed last month that the Exiles would play at the Kassam for three more years and Mr Stevens wants to build on the club's groundwork.

"If I'm being honest, it's been hit and miss," he said.

"We've had high successes with crowds of 10,000 against London Wasps two years ago so we know the potential is there.

"The key part is making sure people enjoy their experience to come and watch professional rugby and the association then of London Welsh with Oxfordshire."

Conveyance Channel moves a step closer

THE Thames Regional Flood and Coast Committee is set to put aside £12million to help fund the Western Conveyance Channel in Oxford.

At a meeting of the committee in April, members agreed to put the money aside for the project, which would see a flood channel built between Seacourt Stream and Sandford Lock.

It is hoped that the channel would take water around the city, and reduce the impact that flooding has on the city.

Cllr Rodney Rose, deputy leader of Oxfordshire County Council and a member of the committee, is pleased that the scheme has reached its next step.

He said: "If this meeting hadn't gone right, this scheme would have been dead in the water, if you can put it that way.

"I think the Western Conveyance is vital. We can't put the economy of Oxfordshire and the city of Oxford at risk every time it decides to rain."

Peter Rawcliffe, chairman of the Oxford Flood Alliance, said: "There's still a long way to go to get all the funding together, but it's a good point to start from and we're very pleased.

"Unless anybody thinks that Oxford should continue to flood, with all the major consequences with it, it's absolutely essential there is a scheme like this."

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact **Jack Johnson** on **01235 516932**
or jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

News Bites

Cars vandalised

OXFORD: Police are appealing for information after 14 vehicles were scratched with a stone last month.

The cars were vandalised between 1.30am and 2.30am on April 26 while they were parked in Wythan Street and Norreys Avenue, and it is believed the offender fled towards Abingdon Road.

Go to prison

OXFORD: Visitors to Oxford Castle have been invited to become Victorian prisoners for the day during the May half term (May 24 to June 1).

Prisoners can try out traditional hard labour punishments, as well as learning more about the history of the site.

Uni awards

OXFORD: Six departments and units at Oxford University have been recognised with Athena SWAN awards, for their efforts in advancing the careers of women.

The Public Health, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Oncology, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences departments achieved bronze status at the awards.

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• *The Melodic return to Oxford tomorrow night. See overleaf (Picture by Louis Fry)*

The Melodic are back!

Want even more?
Visit OxfordJournal.co.uk
for the full guide of what to see and do in Oxfordshire

Let's get baking

CELEBRITY baker Paul Hollywood brings his first ever live tour to Oxford's New Theatre tomorrow, for an evening of baking and comedy.

Paul will be demonstrating recipes and revealing the secrets of being a TV chef, as well as inviting four audience members on stage to bake with him.

Steel's comedy

STAND-UP comedian Mark Steel presents his 'In Town' show at Didcot's Cornerstone theatre tomorrow, where he will share his observations of the town with its residents.

The show is based on Mark's BBC Radio 4 series of the same name, which sees him create a stand-up show based on what he finds out about an area. It starts at 8pm.

Baby boogie

PARENTS and toddlers are being invited to Baby Boogie workshops and discos, taking place at the Pegasus Theatre, on Magdalen Road, on Sunday.

Children under five-years-old can learn dance moves at the beginning of the session, and then put their skills into action before enjoying the disco lights and music.

For full details, go to pegasustheatre.org.uk.

Melodic mix of genres

BRIXTON band The Melodic bring their mix of folk, world beat and pop music to Oxford tomorrow evening, for their first ever headline show in the city.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Rudi Schmidt, Huw Williams, Lydia Samuels and John Naldrett are set to return to Freud's, in Walton Street, following a secret performance they staged at the venue in February.

Their debut album 'Effra Parade' was released in March to critical acclaim, and the group are now preparing for the release of their latest single 'Come Outside' on Monday.

"'Come Outside' is a song we struggled to play live for a while, because we recorded it with a fiddle player," said Rudi.

"But we can't take him on tour, and it felt like something was lacking before we found that we could play it with the same energy without the fiddle player and get the same response.

"We kept doing it and eventually we crossed that hurdle, and suddenly we found the energy for the track.

"I don't know whether we made it better or just started believing in it more, but it now brings an energy to the room."

The Melodic spend a lot of time touring worldwide, and are heading off to perform across Europe later this month.

They have also spent a lot of time in America, and are hoping to return there later this year to work on a new album.

"I think we're going to record it around December time," said Rudi. "We're most likely going to do that in the States.

"We have a few songs ready, and we're writing a lot more. We've booked June and July off so we can work on finishing the songs."

Doors open at 7pm. For more information about the band, go to themelodic.com.

• The Melodic return to Oxford tomorrow (Picture by Manfredi Gioacchini)

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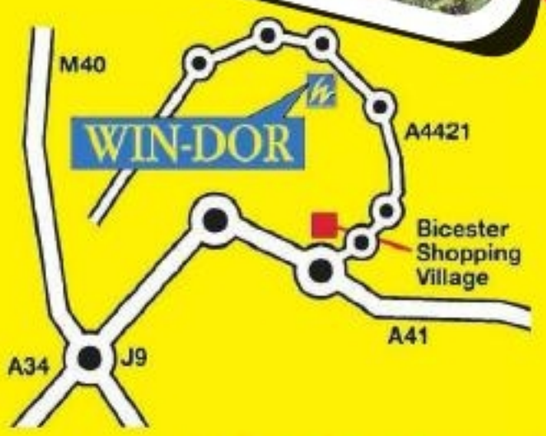

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David Brent

RICKY Gervais performs as his comic creation David Brent at the New Theatre next week, in one of just two shows nationwide.

'Foregone Conclusion' will see David joined on stage by his band, and will perform hits from his back catalogue including 'Free Love Freeway' and 'Slough'.

They take place next Wednesday and Thursday.

Holiday lark

TO mark 100 years since the start of World War One, 'An August Bank Holiday Lark' will be staged at the Oxford Playhouse, on Beaumont Street, from Tuesday.

The gentle drama tells the moving story of the annual Rushbearing Festival in 1914 Lancashire, unaware of the consequences of the looming war.

It runs until May 17.

Mark Thomas

COMEDIAN Mark Thomas returns to the Chipping Norton Theatre this evening for the next instalment of his '100 Acts of Minor Dissent' tour.

Mark has been travelling the country making mischief in various towns and cities, after setting himself the task of committing 100 acts of minor dissent in the space of a year.

'Dead loud' Bottlemen

ALTERNATIVE rock band Catfish and the Bottlemen perform live at Oxford's O2 Academy this Sunday, having released, 'Kathleen', their fourth single in under a year.

The foursome from North Wales burst onto the scene in the summer of last year, after receiving airtime on Radio 1.

By **James Richings**
news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The praise soon started to follow as the band received rave reviews from industry experts nationwide.

"We have a tendency to just drench everything in reverb, because we want it to sound dead loud!" said Catfish frontman Van McCann.

"'Kathleen' is a song about being completely infatuated with someone, so much so that it literally drives you mad and causes you all kinds of problems.

"You can't stop thinking about them, you can't get anything done, you can't think straight, you just want to be with them all the time.

"Basically, it's about being inexplicably madly in love with someone who's absolutely backward, but completely gets you."

The band are now set to play at this year's Reading and Leeds Festival on the unknown stage. A contrasting difference to 18 months ago, where the band had to played over 150 live shows to hone their live set.

Touring all over the UK this summer will be a huge juxtaposition for the group, who were rehearsing all day every day at a B&B in a Llandudno, North Wales, just 18 months ago.

The owners of the bed and breakfast, who later became fans of Catfish, invited the youngsters in rent free on one condition: that they continue to practise and make music.

They kept to their promise and now they will be travelling to Britain's most notable festivals and arenas throughout the rest of 2013.

Doors open for Sunday's show at 7pm, and tickets will cost £9.50. For more information, go to catfishandthebottlemen.com or o2academyoxford.co.uk.

• Catfish and the Bottlemen perform their new single 'Kathleen' in Oxford on Sunday

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | LISTINGS

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Wallingford Town Hall
A POTTED HISTORY OF GARDENING
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10 May 2014 - 31 May 2014, 10am - 5:30pm
Sarah Wiseman Gallery
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www.dogsforthedisabled.or

14 May 2014 - 15 Jun 2014, 4am - 7am
City of Oxford College
OPEN EVENT
"City of Oxford College open day

Wednesday 14th May, 4pm- 7pm at the City of Oxford Campus. http://www.cityofoxford.ac.uk/city-of-Oxford-College-contact-detailFor more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

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14 May 2014 - 17 May 2014, 7:45pm
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
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Shakespeare's comedy of love and confusion in the land of Illyria is coming to Banbury, complete with "witty fools" and "foolish wit".
01295 279 002 www.themillartscentre.co.uk

15 May 2014, 9pm - 11pm
The Jericho
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www.theufq.com"
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16 May 2014
Cornerstone, Didcot
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16 May 2014, 8pm
Fat Lil's, Witney
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With support from The August List and Wes Finch. Tickets £8 available from Rapture in Witney / Truck Store Oxford and online www.tunatheday.com

16 May 2014, 6pm - 9pm
Wallingford Museum
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16 May 2014, 7pm
Oxford Town Hall, St. Aldates
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17 May 2014 - 18 May 2014, 10am - 5pm
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Cornerstone, Didcot
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www.cornerstone-arts.org

18 May 2014, 10am - 3pm
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noltc.co.uk

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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

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Oxford Playhouse
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Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
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www.waterperrygardens.co.uk 01844 339226

27 May 2014 - 27 May 2014, 11am - 3pm
The North Wall Arts Centre
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28 May 2014
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DYLAN THOMAS: RETURN JOURNEY
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

28 May 2014, 8:30pm
The Lamb Inn, Mill Street, Wantage
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30 May 2014, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf and Country Club, A420, Faringdon

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sites.google.com/site/anandayogagroup

What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | LISTINGS

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LIVE JAZZ: JULIE EDWARDS & KEVIN DEARDEN
"""Standard Miles"" presents a British jazz super-group revisiting the music played by the legendary Miles Davis.

Simon Spillett (tenor sax), Henry Lowther (trumpet, flugel-horn), John Critchinson (piano), Dave Green (bass), Trevor Tomkins (drums)."
www.oxfordlivejazz.com 01367 718903

30 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
THE OXFORD REVUE
Join The Oxford Revue as it unites with its biggest sketch comedy rivals, The Cambridge Footlights and The Leeds Tealights.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

30 May 2014 - 1 Jun 2014, 11am - 6pm
Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath
BOTHY VINEYARD OPEN DAYS
Free tutored tasting of wines with nibbles throughout these days. Free 1 hour tour at 11am on each of these days. Mark Alger, local art photographer will also be holding an exhibition in the winery of photos of vineyards and Abingdon, whilst an exhibition of enigmatic wooden sculptures will adorn our grounds. Entry free, no booking required.
www.bothyvineyard.co.uk

31 May 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 Who Put Bella In The Witch Elm?

21.30 The Scribers

22.15 Back Pocket Prophet

£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/266379"
www.gappytooth.com

31 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
ERNEST AND THE PALE MOON
A haunting story of obsession and murder from the highly acclaimed Les Enfants Terribles.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 Jun 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: NATIONAL BBQ WEEK

3 Jun 2014, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - THE RISE AND FALL OF OUR WOOD CULTURE - DR GABRIEL HEMERY
"Over the last 350 years the nature and health of our woodlands and treescapes have changed in step with their utility. Today, perhaps more so than in the last one hundred years, great sylvan opportunities lie ahead, and some significant challenges. Dr Hemery celebrates the legacy of Evelyn's 1664 Sylva, and looks to the future. As a practising silvologist (forest scientist) Dr Gabriel Hemery has undertaken research in subjects ranging from the walnut-fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan, to rearing chickens in farm woodlands; authoring more than 70 scientific articles. He created a new research woodland in Oxfordshire, Paradise Wood, and has planted tens of thousands of trees in field trials across Britain. His first book, The New Sylva, was published by Bloombsury in April 2014."
publicity@anhso.org.uk http://www.anhso.org.uk/

3 Jun 2014 - 5 Jun 2014, 7:30pm
St Leonard's Church, Bledington
BLEDINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL
The 14th annual 3 day Festival of classical music.
www.bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk

3 Jun 2014 - 7 Jun 2014
Oxford Playhouse
BETTY BLUE EYES
Betty Blue Eyes received rave reviews when it premiered in the West End in 2011, picking up an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Musical. This updated production featuring a 21-strong cast is directed by Daniel Buckroyd, Artistic Director of the Mercury Theatre Colchester, and is guaranteed to put a spring in your step.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

7 Jun 2014, 11am - 6pm
Balliol College, Oxford
ENGLISH WINE FESTIVAL
Entrance £8. Over 100 award winning English and Welsh wines will be available to taste and some to purchase. Meet the winemakers and Masters of Wine.
www.thameschilternsvineyards.org.uk

14 Jun 2014, 7:30pm - 10pm
St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6RX
ST GILES ORCHESTRA CONCERT
"Liadov: Baba-Yaga; The Enchanted Lake; Kikimora
Gliere: Concerto for Coloratura Soprano (Yukiko Ishida)
Bernstein: Candide - Glitter and be Gay (Yukiko Ishida)
Rimsky Korsakov: Scheherazade

We welcome back our coloratura soprano soloist Dr Yukiko Ishida from Philadelphia USA to perform Reinhold Gliere's tuneful and unjustly neglected Concerto for Coloratura Soprano. The concert begins with three symphonic poems by the unjustly neglected Liadov who died 100 years ago, and ends with the magnificent Scheherazade.
07517487553 SalesStGilesOrchestra@gmail.com

17 Jun 2014, 6pm - 9pm
Fairacres, Marcham Road, Abingdon
MIELE SEASONAL SEAFOOD COOKERY COURSE
: Miele are joining forces with Michelin starred chef Ryan Simpson, to teach a group of passionateamateur chefs the the latest techniques in preparing and cooking seafood. As well as learning top tips from Ryan, guests will learn from the demo, how to cook two delicious seafood recipes, as well as being able to taste them afterwards! Drinks and canapés will be included in ticket prices. £35 per ticket
01235 233 171

20 Jun 2014, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
CAVALERI QUARTET
Winners of Chamber Music Residency at Oxford University give recital at JdP.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

21 Jun 2014 - 21 Jun 2014, 10am - 2am
City of Oxford College
OPEN EVENT
"City of Oxford College Campus Open event
For more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

21 Jun 2014 - 21 Jun 2014, 10am - 2:59am
Blackbird leyes Campus
OPEN EVENT
For more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

28 Jun 2014, 7pm - 9pm
The Methodist Church, High Street, Witney
JOSEPH AND THEAMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT -AMATEUR YOUTH PRODUCTION
A lively concert performance of the songs from this popular family musical, sung by the children of Songscope - Witney Young Singers. Interpreted in sign language by Dr Paul Whittaker OBE, founder of the charity Music and the Deaf.
07786 630164 www.songscope.org

28 Jun 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 The August List
21.30 Blunderbuster
22.15 Don't Go Plastic
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/271430"
www.gappytooth.com

28 Jun 2014, 12:30pm
Kingham Primary School, west Oxfordshire
SUMMER FETE & PRIZE DRAW
"Morgan Motor Company has donated a Morgan Supersports Junior Pedal Car (worth £3000) as a prize for the school's raffle!!"

29 Jun 2014, 10am - 4pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
RARE PLANT FAIR
The chance to browse stalls manned by expert nurserymen and women specialising in both rare and traditional plants. The event costs £6.50 which includes entrance to the ornamental gardens.
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk 01844 339226

1 Jul 2014, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - OCEAN CIRCULATION AND CLIMATE - DR RENSKE GELDERLOOS
"The ocean plays a very important role in the Earth's climate system through storage and transport of heat, fresh water, and carbon. Dr Gelderloos will discuss the principle ocean circulation patterns and how they affect well known climatic phenomena such as El Niño and the hydrological cycle. Furthermore, as increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere affect the circulation in the ocean, this will feed back onto the climate system. Based on what we know about how the oceans affect the Earth's climate, what changes may we expect?
Dr Gelderloos is a physical oceanographer interested in subpolar and polar oceans. After specializing in fluid dynamics during a BSc and MSc in Civil Engineering at the University of Twente (Netherlands), she studied deep water formation in the Labrador Sea at KNMI/University of Utrecht for her PhD. She now work as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of Earth Sciences, studying ocean dynamics in the Canadian Arctic."
publicity@anhso.org.uk http://www.anhso.org.uk/

6 Jul 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: STRAWBERRY DELIGHT

18 Jul 2014 - 19 Jul 2014, 7pm
The Deanery Garden, Bampton
BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA
"Gluck Il Parnaso confuso (UK staged première) and Bertoni Orfeo
Cast tbc. Thomas Blunt (conductor), Jeremy Gray (director)
Tickets: £32"
bamptonopera.org

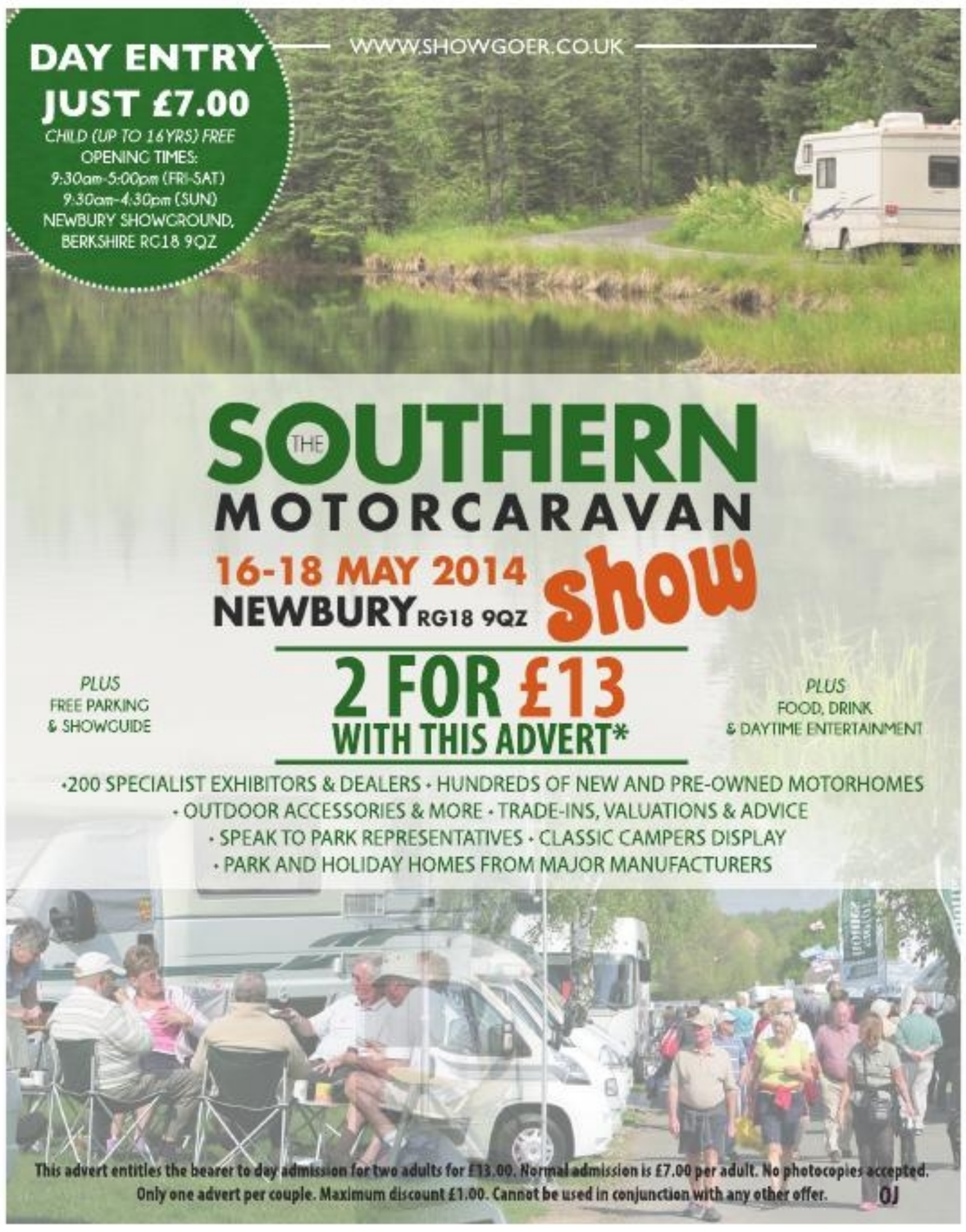
3 Aug 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC/ OXON VEG CYCLE

29 Aug 2014 - 31 Aug 2014
Wallingford
BUNKFEST
A free-access community festival providing a unique, family friendly celebration with something for everyone including Music, Dance, Food & Trade Stalls, Workshops and a Real Ale Beer Festival
www.bunkfest.co.uk

7 Sep 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: CHEESE & CHUTNEY

5 Oct 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: CURRY & SPICE SPECIAL

7 Oct 2014, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - LICHENOMETRY: A METHOD FOR MEASURING TIME IN FAR-AWAY PLACES - DR VANESSA WINCHESTER
"What are lichens, where do they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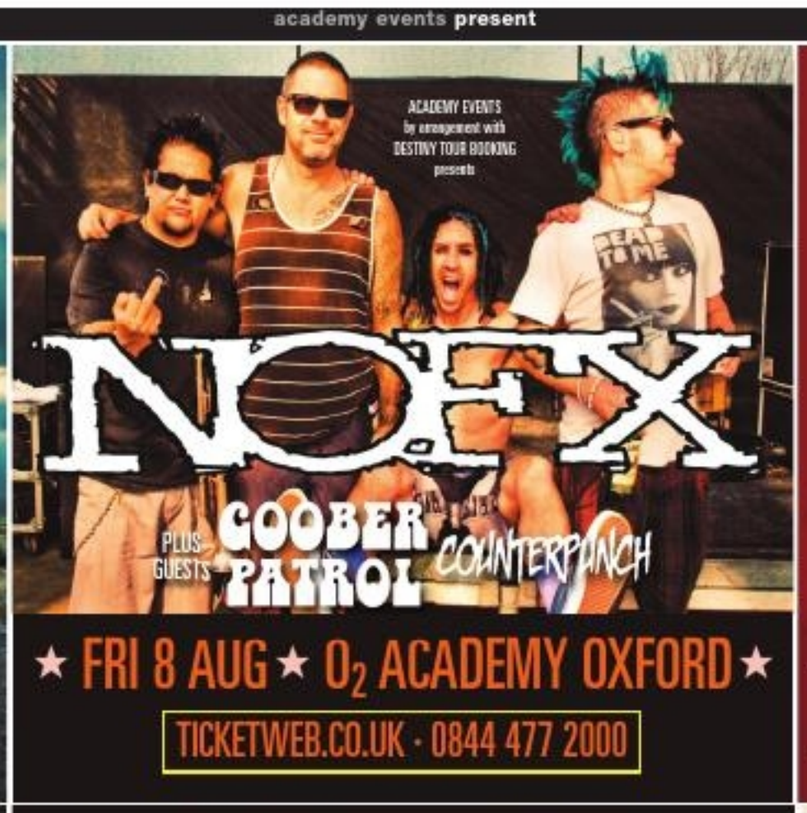

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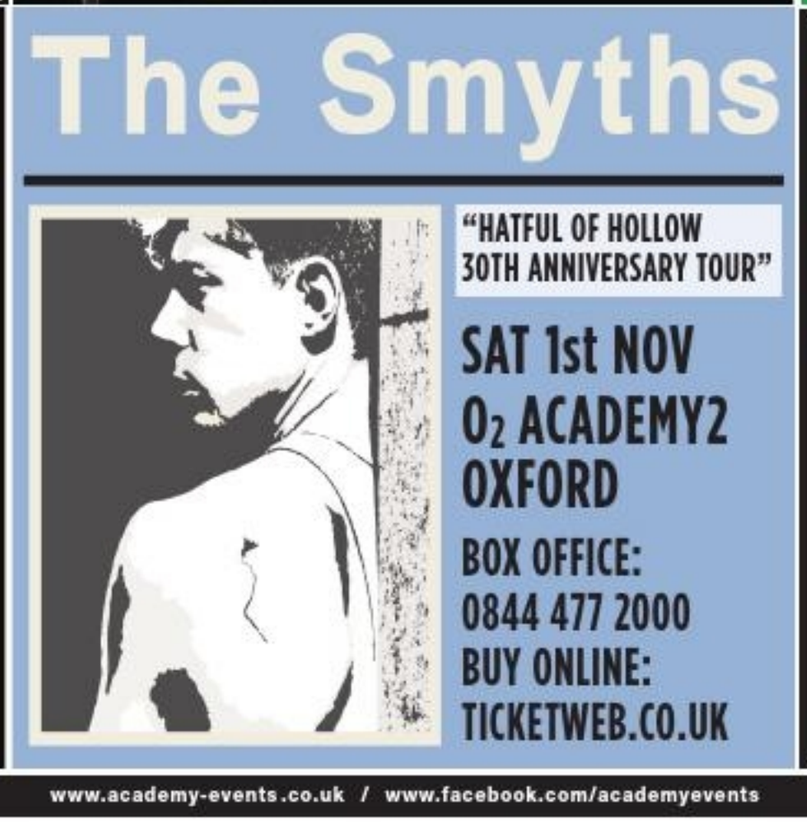

Oxford Property

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk

Thursday, May 8 - Wednesday, May 14, 2014

This large four-bed semi off Cowley Road has three reception rooms and can be sold as a family home or as a ready-made rental opportunity with tenants or without

More details on page 6

TRADE SECRET

OUTLET FURNITURE WAREHOUSE

www.trade-secret.co.uk

Tel: 01295 810110

Unit 6 Twyford Mill, Adderbury, Nr Banbury OX17 3SX

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SALE MUST END 4pm SUNDAY 11TH MAY

OVER £1,500,000 WORTH OF FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES HAVE TO BE CLEARED TO MAKE ROOM FOR BRAND NEW SUMMER STOCK. *ACCESSORIES ALSO INCLUDED.*

SPECIAL OFFER TO ALL NEW HOME BUYERS - SEE PAGE 19

Usual opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

connells.co.uk

Oxford Lettings

Connells

Wheatley £900

TWO BEDROOM ground floor apartment set in a highly sought after development in the popular and conveniently located village of Wheatley. Veiwing is a must, EPC Rating:D

Oxford £1050

WELL PRESENTED -2 bedroom house with excellent access to the Oxford ring road,A40 local business centre and the City centre.Available now.Viewing is a must.EPC rating:D

AYLESBURY £1,250

THREE BEDROOM-end of terrace house is situated in a quiet rural location with beautiful surroundings in a sought after and historic village of Brill.The property has many interesting and attractive features, with good accommodation of, Entrance hall, Large spacious lounge with feature log burning stove, Country style kitchen, dining room Conservatory, Three double bedrooms, bathroom and a cloakroom. Allocated parking, front and rear garden. Viewing highly recommended.

Cowley £1,250

Currently undergoing a full refurbishment this conveniently located house.Accommodation of,entrance hall,lounge/diner, kitchen,3 bedrooms,bathroom front and rear gardens.Available end of May.EPC Rating:E

Littlemore £1,300

SHORT TERM LET-This excellent house is available at the start of May.Accommodation of entrance hall,living room,light airy and spacious fully fitted kitchen diner,two double bedrooms, bathroom.EPC Rating:D

Cowley £1,300

SPACIOUS GROUND FLOOR apartment. Available furnished at the end of July, viewing is high recommended. EPC Rating:B

Horspath £2,100

FANTASTIC DETACHED VILLAGE HOME-situated in the heart of Horspath yet with very easy access to Oxford and the M40. A must see property, EPC Rating:C

Oxford Road £875

WELL LOCATED- two bedroom ground floor apartment,which offers very easy access to Oxford City Centre,Cowley Centre and business parks. Allocated parking,Available end of May. EPC Rating:E

OXFORD £1,300

VERY WELL PRESENTED-spacious 3 bedroom home in excellent condition and tastefully decorated.Viewing of this delightful house is highly recommended. EPC Rating:D

01865 749 645 60 Between Towns Road Oxford OX4 3LR
oxfordlet@connells.co.uk

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connells.co.uk

Oxford

Connells

Oxford £500,000

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 10TH MAY - Contact Connells now to arrange your appointment. This substantial FOUR BEDROOM property is located just off the Cowley Road and benefits from having THREE RECEPTION ROOMS. Offered for sale with tenants in-situ or with vacant possession.

Stadhampton £475,000

Located in the sought after VILLAGE of Stadhampton is this splendid four bedroom detached family home, offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN. Offering four bedrooms with a master bedroom with en-suite, family wet room, dining room, front to back living room, re-fitted diner. The property also has the added benefit of a 22 ft garage and mature gardens to front and rear.

Cowley £305,000

Offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN is this spacious three bedroom semi detached home, with the added benefit of OFF ROAD PARKING.

Littlemore £269,995

This SEMI DETACHED is located in a quiet cul-de-sac and has been UPDATED and IMPROVED throughout. The SPACIOUS accommodation offers the POTENTIAL to CONVERT into a THREE bedroom home.

Oxford £325,000

A three bedroom MODERN terrace property with an EN-SUITE Shower room to master bedroom. Located close to the popular Cowley Road and half mile to Oxford City Centre. Ideal family home or invesment opportunity.

Oxford £350,000

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Wallingford £220,000

A much IMPROVED three bed, three bathroom home within 10 miles of Oxford.

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Blackbird Leys £220,000

Offered onto the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN is this three bedroom end of terrace property situated in the popular Blackbird Leys. Call us now to arrange your viewing.

Blackbird Leys £220,000

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Donnington Bridge £249,500

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Headington

Connells

East Field Close £450,000

An attractive detached property offering great access to the ring road, local hospitals & bus routes.

Barton Village Road £230,000

Well presented end of terrace home. The property offers lounge, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms, off road parking for approximately three vehicles and access to rear garden.

Collinwood Road £325,000

Connells Estate Agents of Headington are pleased to present to the market this three bedroom semi-detached property in Risinghurst.

London Road £210,000

Retirement property, located on the ground floor of the popular London Court development. The site offers a 24 hour emergency careline system & house manager. Energy Rating: C.

Bayswater Farm Road £155,000

The property is well presented & offers: lounge, diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master & family bathroom. Externally the property offers surrounding gardens with decked area & parking on a drive.

Brome Place £170,000

Well presented one double bedroom flat with lounge/diner, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and hobby room. The property would be ideal as a starter home or as an investment. Energy Rating: C.

Ilsley Road £225,000

The house consists of: three bedrooms & family bathroom on the first floor, kitchen, dining room, lounge & cloakroom on the ground floor. The property is located within walking distance of local shops.

Hengrove Close £230,000

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this property is a great family home, offering: lounge, kitchen/diner, three well proportioned bedrooms, bathroom, parking & front & rear gardens.

Holloway £275,000

Semi detached property in need of refurbishment, offered with no onward chain, parking and gardens. The accommodation consists of three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, diner, cloakroom and kitchen.

Cranley Road £90,000

DEVELOPMENT PLOT Planning approved for a one bedroom house to be developed to the side of a three bedroom semi detached property. Viewing advised and further plans available in branch.

Boad Oak £275,000

Well presented family home located in a quiet cul-de-sac next to Magdalen Wood. Ideal for first time buyers and people looking for a property to move into with no renovation. Energy Rating: D.

Bulan Road £320,000

Investment Opportunity. Offered with tenants in situ until July. The property has an HMO for 4 people, is located in a prime location for lettings, close to the Headington hospitals & Brookes University.

01865 763501 137a London Road Headington OX3 9HZ
headington@connells.co.uk

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Headington

Connells

Aysgarth Road £400,000

A substantial detached three bedroom bungalow well positioned within the village of Yarnton. Energy Rating: D.

Old Road £450,000

Detached family home. Spacious accomadation over two levels with room to extend (subject to planning). Located within walking distance of the Nuffield Hospital. Energy rating: F.

Windmill Road £480,000

Victorian semi detached property in Central Headington, conveniently situated to local amenities, good public transport links and access to Nuffield and Churchill hospital. Energy Rating: E.

Coverley Road £300,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Currently HMO Licensed, this spacious detached property is situated on a corner plot within walking distance to London Road.

Rutten Lane £375,000

Detached Chalet Bungalow in historic village of Yarnton. Set back from the main street the property offers great access to local amenities.

Barton Road £215,000

Offered with no onward chain, well proportioned ground floor flat. Currently used as a family home but would also be ideal as an investment. Energy rating: D.

Nuffield Road £300,000

Three bedroom home with access to local amenities, offering good public transport links and conveniently situated to access The Nuffield Hospital and Churchill Hospital. Energy Rating: D.

Atkyns Road £190,000

Recently refurbished duplex apartment, offering great local amenities and a short walk to the The Nuffield & Churchill Hospital.

Atkinson Close £280,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Offering good rental potential, great links to major routes, local hospitals & the city. Energy Rating: D.

Hawthorn Avenue £395,000

Refurbished property in Central Headington, offering a great family home conveniently situated to access local shops and amenities, a short walk to the London Road. Awaiting EPC rating.

Aldbarton Drive £250,000

The property comprises of living space over four floors, consisting of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom & Spacious Lounge and is presented in excellent order throughout.

Cranley Road £240,000

Well presented family home, offered with no chain.

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headington@connells.co.uk

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Doors open to generously sized semi

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Telephone 01865 748 448,
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The Property Ombudsman receives government approval to provide lettings redress

New legislative changes will make it a legal requirement for all letting agents to register with a redress scheme

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has approved The Property Ombudsman (TPO) to provide a free and independent redress service to landlords and tenants as part of new legislative changes affecting letting agents.

Today's announcement by Housing Minister Kris Hopkins follows the government's decision to make it a legal requirement for all letting agents and property management agents in England to be a member of an approved redress scheme. It is expected that this legal obligation will come into effect later this year.

To date, more than 11,000 letting agents have already registered with TPO and are voluntarily following the standards outlined in TPO's Lettings Code of Practice, which enables consumers who are dissatisfied with the service provided by registered firms to have their complaints independently investigated and reviewed by the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman, Christopher Hamer, said: "As the largest redress scheme in the property sector I am naturally very pleased that TPO has received official recognition from the government as an approved redress scheme. With 60 per cent of UK letting agents already in membership with TPO this will mean no change for them.

"However, TPO experienced a 34.2 per cent increase in the number of consumer enquiries relating to letting agents which were not registered with TPO during 2013.

"That really underlines the importance of mandatory redress for letting and management agents. Whilst my role as Ombudsman means that I am not a regulator and I can only review complaints after a dispute has occurred, making redress a legal requirement for lettings is a positive move to enhance consumer protection. Clearly it would be better if complaints did not arise in the first place and robust legislation to enforce controls was in place.

"That said, the Government has been quite clear about their desire to see the industry self-regulate and I believe that compulsory redress is one of the many safeguards needed for consumers.

"We will now emphasise to agents not currently registered with a redress scheme the benefits of joining TPO, not the least of which is that those agents will be able to demonstrate to their landlords and tenants that they follow the comprehensive set of standards contained in the TPO Code of Practice – the only Code of its kind in the industry – and we look forward to welcoming many more agents to the scheme following our government approval."

Bill McClintock, Chairman of the TPO Board, said: "Compulsory redress for letting agents is a big step in the right direction to give consumers a free, fair and impartial route to resolve disputes. These changes will bring a level playing field for letting agents, following years of campaigning from TPO and the industry.

"We are delighted to have government approval and look forward to being able to use our 24 years of experience to offer even more consumers peace of mind that if they use a TPO registered agent they can access a free dispute resolution service."

Allen and Harris geared up for new mortgage rules

In the wake of new regulation on the way mortgages are assessed by lenders and media hype that it will now take weeks to get a mortgage appointment, Headington-based estate agency Allen and Harris, in London Road, is reassuring customers it is ready and has qualified mortgage consultants in all its branches who are taking appointments straight away. Allen and Harris says that despite reports of longer mortgage consultations and a delay in the availability of appointments, there will be no disruption to its in-house mortgage services. Mortgage Consultant Lewis Parry was fully trained on the changes outlined in the Mortgage Market Review (MMR) weeks in advance of its launch and has already been advising customers under the new guidelines for some time.

"We have been preparing for the launch of new mortgage regulation for some time and are now advising customers based on the reforms that have been put in place," Mr Parry said. "Despite all the doom and gloom around the changes and talk of waiting weeks to get a mortgage appointment, I would like to reassure customers that we have mortgage appointments available today so home buyers will not have to wait for weeks to use our service."

According to the local agent, applying for a mortgage will now require a greater level of input from customers, but this is in the interests of making sure buyers can afford their loans should interest rates increase. "We are very positive on the changes which we do not think will impede buyers ability to get a mortgage they can afford," Lewis continues.

Allen and Harris welcomes the changes in the new mortgage regulation which should help to ensure home loans are affordable in the longer term. As part of its parent company Sequence, all of Allen and Harris's mortgage services consultants have undergone rigorous training and preparation so they are fully compliant with the recommendations in MMR.

If you have a property to sell and would like to book a free market appraisal with Allen and Harris, please contact the branch on 01865 767414 or email: headington@sequencehome.co.uk

The estate agents was established in 1966 by Mike Allen and D.R. Harris who opened their first branch in Didcot.

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Alice House is centrally located around bars, restaurants, cafes, shops and supermarkets. It is within easy reach of city-centre colleges and Oxford Brookes' Gipsy Lane campus.

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Gidley Way
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£575,000

Allen and Harris are delighted to present this spacious five bedroom chalet bungalow in the highly sought after village of Horspath. As well as a beautiful garden with views over rolling countryside the excellent links to the many historical attractions and shopping opportunities Oxford city centre.

Old High Street, Headington
Oxford
£305,000

A charming one bedroom character property located in the highly desirable Headington Quarry conservation area, this unique property is not to be missed!

Pond House
Oxford
£900,000

OPEN HOUSE-SATURDAY 3rd May 12-2PM. CALL TO BOOK AS HIGH DEMAND EXPECTED An exceptional detached four bedroom, three reception room family residence, much improved with great attention to detail. The property is situated in generous grounds within the desirable village of Horton-cum-Studley.

Titup Hall Drive
Oxford
£300,000

A spacious three bedroom family home presented in excellent decorative order throughout. The property provides generously proportioned accommodation across two floors and has the added attraction of a double glazed victorian style conservatory.

Spring Lane
Headington
£525,000

A modern four/five bedroom detached family home situated within the Ring road in Headington. The property offers deceptively spacious accommodation internally which needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated.

Benson Road
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Birch Road, Garsington **£275,000**

OPEN HOUSE 10th MAY BETWEEN 11AM-1PM Presented to the market is this well presented detached bungalow situated on Birch Road in Garsington. NO ONWARD CHAIN

Rose Hill
Oxford **£485000**

A beautifully presented extended three bedroom detached property situated in this highly sought after and popular location. Extended to the rear and providing exceptional living space this property is not to be missed.

Sunningwell Road
Oxford **£575,000**

A rare oppotunity to obtain this fantastic four bedroom Victorian terraced property situated in this fantastic & highly sought after location. With a wealth of original features throughout the property is one not to be missed.

Moorbank
Oxford **£235,000**

A good sized three bedroom semi-detached home situated in this highly sought after and popular location. Boasting Three/Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and reception room this property has great potential. For more information call 01865 711441.

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A newly refurbished three bedroom semi-detached property with off road parking and enclosed private rear garden, lounge, kitchen. The property has been well maintained throughout and to arrange a viewing please call 01865 711441. NO ONWARD CHAIN

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A good sized three bedroom mid-terraced property situated in this popular location. Boasting a lounge open plan to dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, utility area, three spacious bedrooms and bathroom upstairs, a private garden with park for two and garage to rear. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

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WHEATLEY **£370,000**
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Four bedroomed detached house on OU

WHEATLEY
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WHEATLEY
Four bedroomed cottage on High Street W

WHEATLEY
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Or on a postcard to Competitions, Oxford Journal, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN tickets to the CLA Game Fair at Blenheim!

THE celebration of the Great British countryside, the CLA Game Fair is returning to Blenheim Palace from 18th - 20th July 2014 and for any discerning country lover it is an event not to be missed!

With food to fashion, fishing to fine arts, elegant gardens to archery, climbing walls to craft demos and of course main arena displays there is something for all the family to enjoy.

The CLA Game fair gives you the opportunity not only to see the experts but to Have a Go and try something new. The event offers an action-packed programme giving visitors the chance not only to watch the best country sportsmen and women in their field but also to try out activities themselves. There is a huge range of activities to sample geared towards adults and children of all ages, ensuring the whole family has a memorable day.

Visitors keen to gain new skills can try fishing, clay-shooting, 4x4 off-road driving, falconry, field archery, airgun practice and target shooting. For amateur gundog owners, there is even the chance to put the family pet to the test on a novice course.

Closing date:
Friday, May 23, 2014

The shopping opportunities are endless and all set in the beautiful grounds of Blenheim Palace it makes for a jam packed fun filled weekend!

We are offering you the chance to win a pair of adult one day tickets to a day of your choice and don't forget 16 and under come FREE so all the family can come along!

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: In which county is Blenheim Palace?

CLA GameFair

To enter more competitions like this, go online to www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

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Show	Time	Ticket Face Value	Package Price per person	Offered Until
The 39 Steps	8pm	£50	£89.95	17 Oct 14
The Woman in Black	4pm or 8pm	£47.50	£89.95	12 Dec 14
Thriller Live	7:30pm	£65	£89.95	26 Sept 14
We Will Rock You	7:30pm	£66.25	£99.95	04 Apr 14
Billy Elliot	7:30pm	£68.50	£109.95	12 Dec 14
I Can't Sing	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	24 Oct 14
Once	7:30pm	£69.50	£109.95	30 May 14
Phantom of the Opera	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	24 Oct 14
The Lion King	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	26 Sept 14
Mamma Mia!	7:45pm	£64	£109.95	24 Oct 14
War Horse	7:30pm	£62.50	£109.95	12 Dec 14
Wicked	7:30pm	£65	£139.95	31 Oct 14
Charlie & The Chocolate Factory	7:30pm	£67.50	£109.95	31 Oct 14
From Here to Eternity	7:30pm	£67.50	£109.95	11 Apr 14

For more information or to book, please call:
01524 37500 quote OXJ
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SAT 8.45-15.30
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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8	4			6	3			
	2	7		4				9
	9	1				5		6
		3			8		1	
9		2	6		4	7		8
	5		7			2		
5		6				8	3	
1				7		4	2	
			3	5			9	7

8						2		6
		1	4	6				
7			8			9		3
		7			8			
	5	9				3	8	
			2			5		
9		6			2			5
				8	6	4		
5		4						8

	1					6	4	
							7	2
		9	7		8			
2				8				
		5	9		4	1		
				2				8
			1		3	9		
9	4							
	7	6					5	

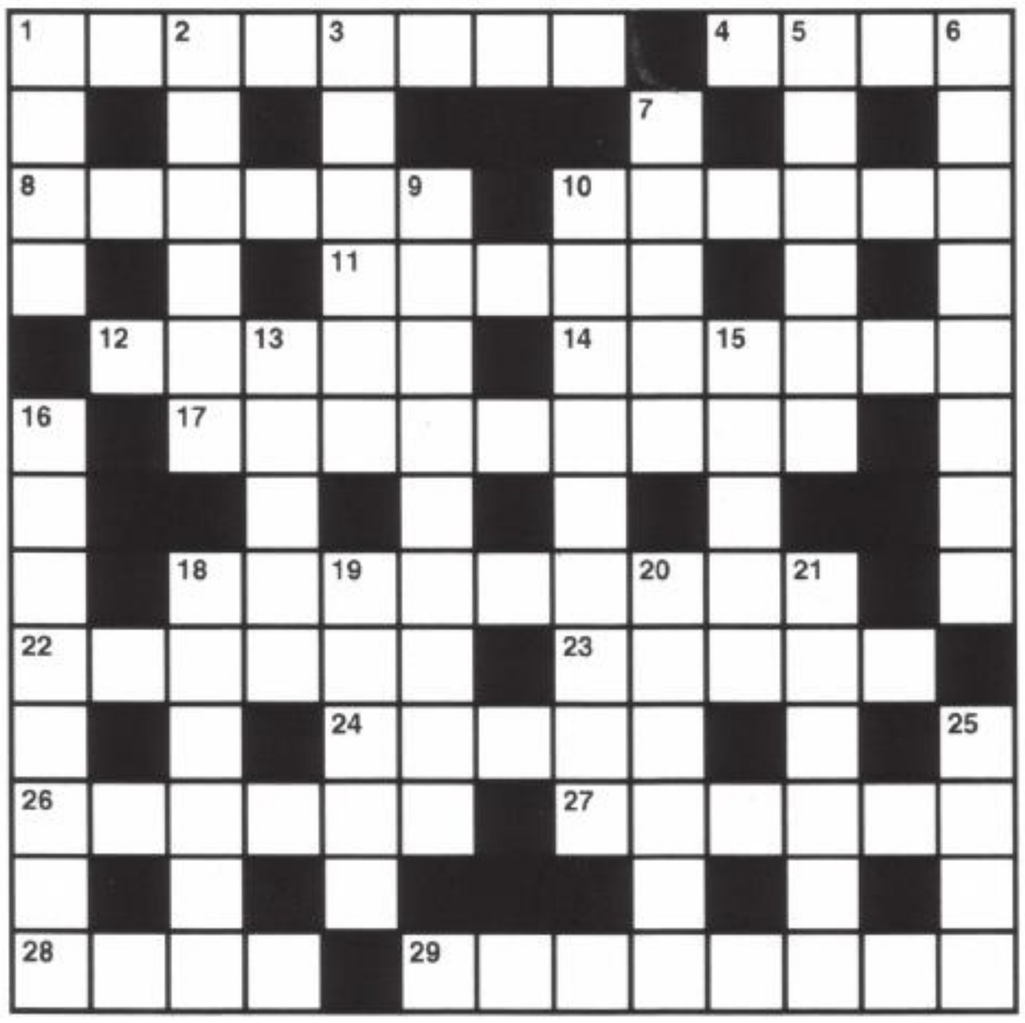
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Permanent inhabitant (8)
4 Mark (4)
8 Small gate (6)
10 Large fish (6)
11 Finds fault (5)
12 Stick (5)
14 Home of Jewish nation (6)
17 Unsafe (9)
18 Shaping anew (9)
22 Old sailor (3-3)
23 Retract (5)
24 Royal (5)
26 Indian money (6)
27 Bigger (6)
28 Finishes (4)
29 Without thought (8)

Quick Clues Down
1 Ready for harvest (4)
2 Extend (6)
3 Church official (6)
5 South American plains (6)
6 Without melody (8)
7 Lariat (5)
9 Tongues (9)
10 Of the soul (9)
13 Measured (5)
15 Devastates (5)
16 Keep (8)
18 Grated (6)
19 Centres (5)
20 Decorated with insets (6)
21 Mouthwash (6)
25 Branches of learning (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Put up a fight but the rest dies out (8)
4 Said to be drunk at the funeral (4)
8 I'd made out a crown (6)
10 It could be nice to take Mother to the movies (6)
11 Being simple, I'm taken in by the boy (5)
12 Breaks more than one 2 down (5)
14 Retiring man gets round his friend with an explosive result (6)
17 The issue that puts me back before a race (9)
18 Vowing that as a professional, I'm coming back to sing (9)
22 Six may be true to chastity (6)
23 There's a lot at variance in the final count (5)
24 Found trustworthy by the jury? (5)
26 Cowboy's limits? (6)
27 Revolutionary's up and about the tavern for a meal (6)
28 One's never so flat (4)
29 Left for the Sahara? (8)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Sounds as if he regretted being impolite (4)
2 Personification of the beginning of Utopia in the state (6)
3 Said he was to see Esther has an afternoon rest? (6)
5 In play he cometh - out of 10 across? (6)
6 Venus getting ready to fight again? (8)
7 Desert where sin is first class (5)
9 Minor mess produces wrong names (9)
10 See the trial, Edward? It's disputed (9)
13 Fashionable pain (5)
15 The aim of the decimal system (5)
16 Scan poetry? Quite the opposite (8)
18 The value of absorbing a new start for the sovereign? (6)
19 The wrong route to find some space (5)
20 Chemical element that is surrounding the Norse god (6)
21 Made of argent, not necessarily set in silver (6)
25 Poke with a soft stick (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	9	1	6	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7	6
2	7	6	3	5	4	8	1	9
7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4
6	5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	2

6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	8	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	3
5	2	3	1	8	4	9	7	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	1
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9
7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5	2

6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	2	6
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	2	3	5	1	6	4	8
3	8	1	4	6	7	2	9	5
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	6	9	4	5	8	7	2

Quick Crossword
Across: 4 Permit 8 Carrier 9 Agenda 10 Persecute 11 Stop 13 Steed 14 Ulsters 16 Lecture 18 Ember 19 Ones 21 Consulate 22 Diadem 23 Lignite 24 Nestle
Down: 1 Gazetteer 2 Prospects 3 Leech 5 Edge 6 Minute 7 Tramps 9 Atoll 11 Stimulant 12 Orientate 15 Broom 16 London 17 Cedars 20 Astir 21 Cell

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Depart 8 Pompous 9 Mental 10 Street-car 11 Been 13 Angle 14 Millers 16 Peanuts 18 Acids 19 Edit 21 Shellback 22 Dainty 23 Spirits 24 Egging
Down: 1 Portended 2 Appellant 3 Suits 5 Ever 6 Attlee 7 Talons 9 Maniac 11 Blackbird 12 Eradicate 15 Itchy 16 Peddle 17 Ailing 20 Slope 21 Stun

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The CIRCUS Is Back In Town...

Saturday 24th May - Sunday 1st June

Shows at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm & 4.30pm

The award winning John Lawson's Circus voted 'Best Small Circus', will make its return to Millets Farm Centre during the May Half-Term.

With an entirely human cast and featuring new acts and routines including Miss Monika from Hungary with her aerial skills, Miss Georgia from Romania on the aerial rope, Ross on the rola rola and no Circus would be complete without plenty of clowning around.

This enthralling show lasts an hour and is a great family experience not to be missed!

£5.99 per person

Tickets are available to purchase online at www.milletsfarmcentre.com. We strongly advise booking early for this event!

Millets Farm Centre
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Diano Marina
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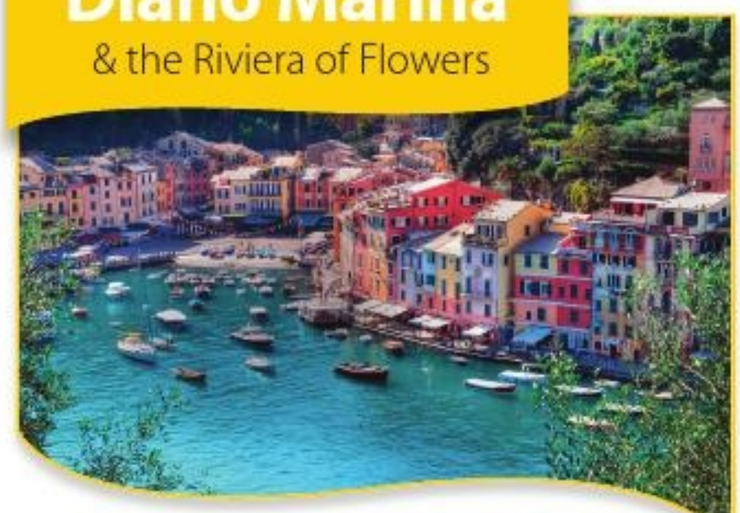


Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

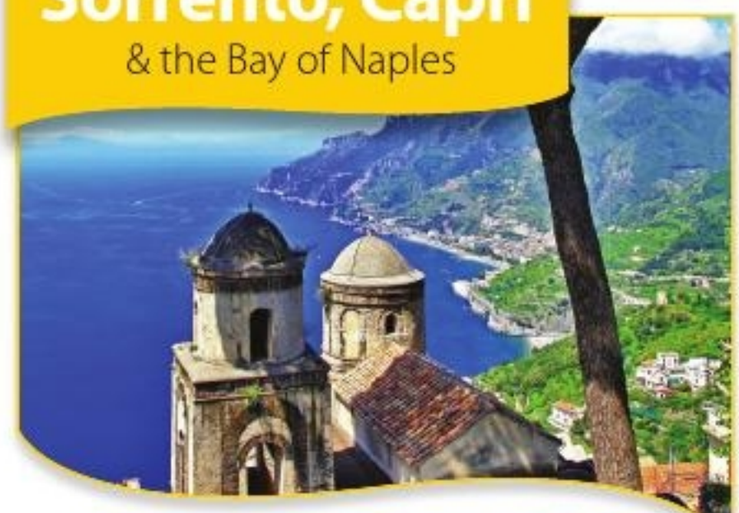
Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name…savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Piccolo Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
  An upgrade to the **4 star Hotel Metropol**, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement.
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£819pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/9/14

Sorrento, Capri
& the Bay of Naples



Departing July - October 2014
From Gatwick airport

This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay. We invite you to discover the beautiful medieval city of Sorrento, which overlooks the magical waters of the Bay of Naples, allowing panoramic views of the city of Naples, the lovely islands of Capri and Ischia, and the awe-inspiring Mount Vesuvius.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Naples†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star** Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with 3 course evening meal and breakfast
- **Three full-day escorted excursions**; to the Island of Capri, to Pompeii & Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Drive

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 29/9/14

Summer in the Austrian Mountains

Wednesday departures, July - August 2014
From Gatwick airport

Mountain pine air you could bottle and sell, glacier fresh beer, scented meadows, a history of music and mad kings, houses painted as optical illusions – discover alpine Austria with this Omega 8 day break including flights, 4 star hotel, dinner, breakfast and full day excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Basel†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Basel airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Sport Hotel, St Anton am Arlberg** with breakfast and evening meal
- Full day excursion to Oberammergau
- Full day excursion to Lake Constance and Lindau (inc boat trip)
- Half day on scenic high mountain Silvretta highway visiting Schruns and Ischgl

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£659pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 16/7/14

Malta & Gozo
The Idyllic Islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

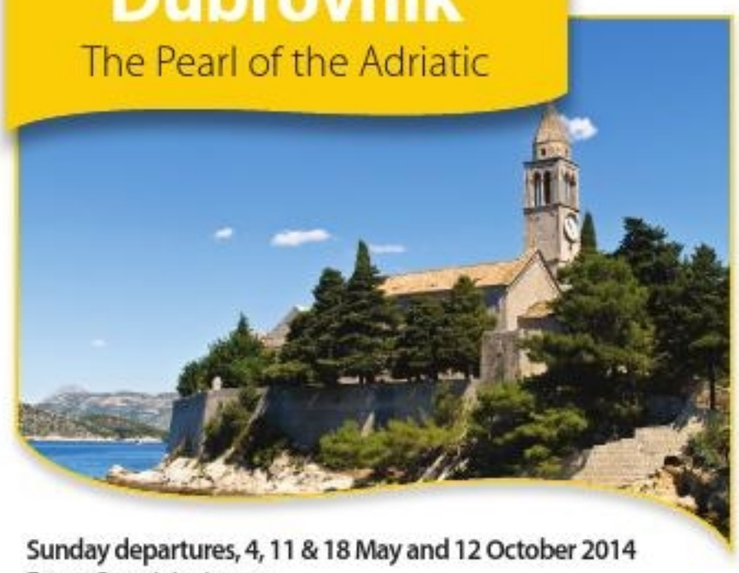
Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel, Sliema** with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£749pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14

Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

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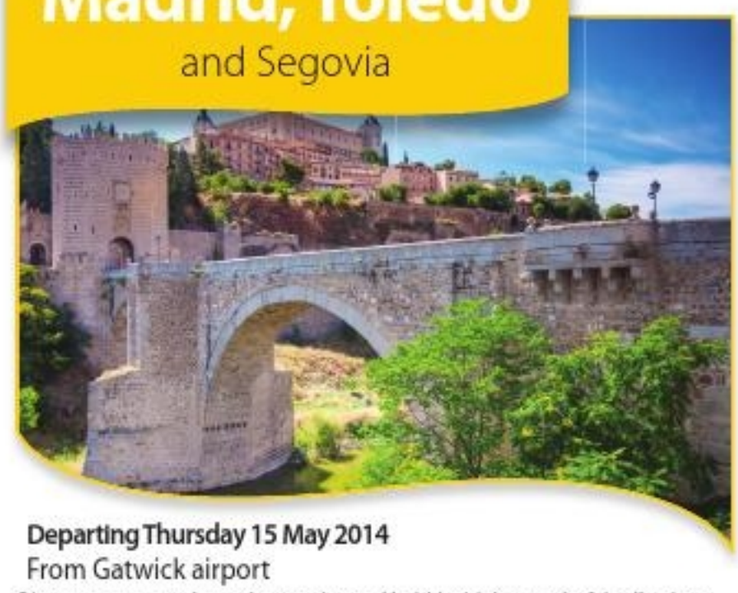

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Fiat's statement of intent

REVIEW: Fiat 500L Beats Edition

By **James Richings**

WHEN you think of good looking Italian cars, you think of the Ferrari Enzo, the Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione and the Maserati Quattroporte. The latest version of the Fiat 500L hits the roads this year with the high hopes that it will join the list.

The new Fiat 500L Beats Edition keeps the chunky off-road tyres and tall stance of the trekking from the previous version, but there is a twist. Everyone loves to give the speakers a blast once in a while, an urge it can satisfy with a subwoofer for powerful, eardrum-bursting bass notes. The simple Bluetooth connection means you can connect up easily.

It has a colour combination of grey, black and red which means the 500L Beats Edition looks young and trendy with the arrogance that someone in their twenties would have. The car stands out from the rest of the other 500L's because of the new colour style and the sleeker smaller shape. It appears like a massive statement of intent by Fiat, who seem to be targeting a younger audience.

The 120-horsepower 1.6 litre diesel engine is quieter than the last version so you can listen to the bass drop, and the tyres are not bad. The semi-winter tyres are a good gift for tackling the icy and snowy roads in the winter.

The boot of the car has a high floor which means boot space is limited, but there is still plenty of room. It looks a bit like BMW's Mini Countryman and Mini Clubman. Although the Mini is more spacious, the new 500L Beats Edition has the up-to-date technology, to make sure drivers enjoy their ride.

To sum it up: if you want to impress your friends, or enemies, it could well do the job. Arrogance, confidence and loud is the three words that spring to my mind.

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There are currently 10 versions of Fiat 500L models at NIL advance payment. For further information and for a complete list of Fiat cars available on the Motability scheme, please call 0844 324 1630 or visit our website: www.hartwell.co.uk

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 70.6 (4.0). CO_2 emissions 149 – 105 g/km.
Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *Vehicles shown are Fiat 500L Trekking with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost and Fiat 500L MPW Lounge with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost. ^The Fiat 500L and Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. ‡Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st April - 30th June 2014. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time.

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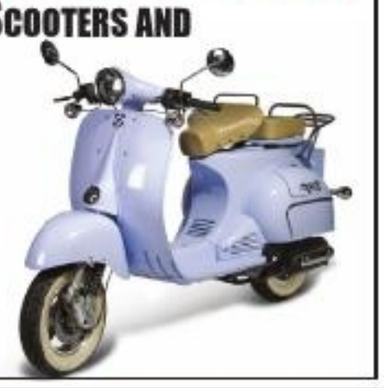

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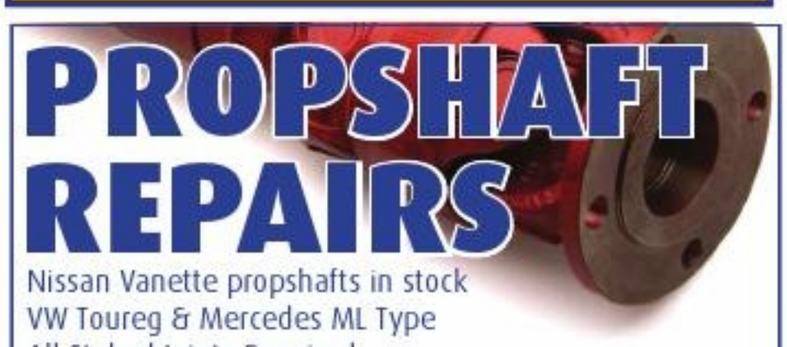

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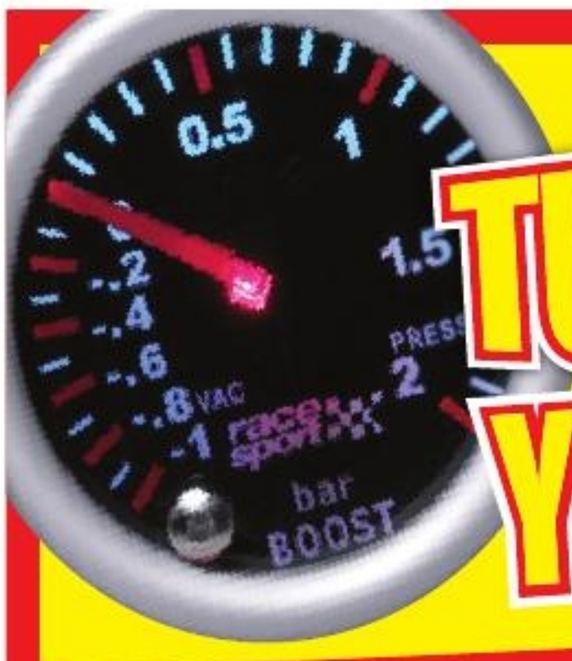

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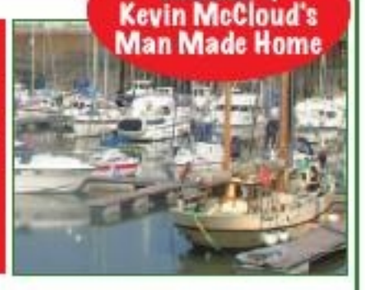

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Oxford Journal YOUR DATE

woman seeking

DONNA 39 blond green eyes petite looking for a fun loving 6ft guy. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4349289**

DEBBIE very petite 28yr old attractive blonde trainee nurse, active, fit, outgoing, seeking caring, sensitive man with GSOH. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411699**

SONYA tall leggy vibrant very attractive black lady who loves gym, music, dining out, seeks mature responsible, respectable professional to be my soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411697**

SILVI divorced attractive average built female who loves to laugh and has an extremely infectious personality, looking to find love with genuine man. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411527**

CARRIE 29yr old fun loving attractive single mum with OHAC, likes nights in or out, music, WLTM similar fun romantic handsome man for friendship possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411215**

ABI creative free spirited lady, enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 409723**

DEBS very hurt but healing female only looking for honest, caring genuine guy who will love me for me. I have varied interests and love music and Lanzarote. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 409275**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1955 Box 410127**

DEBS 40 normal passionate romantic with my own home and cat, loves wine, champers, seeks honest sincere likeminded male who thinks I'm worth getting to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411221**

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408291**

JANE slim attractive fun loving artistic, loves life and good company, WLTM slim built male with GSOH for shared interests maybe even a love connection. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411213**

SUE 38 enjoys cinema, clubs, meals in/out, very broadminded, attentive, tactile, passionate, looking for lots of fun with Mr Wrong! discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411205**

SARA 6ft slim leggy blonde, loves dancing, keeping fit, motorbikes, children, animals etc, seeking honest, outdoorsy guy/dad to live life to the full with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411035**

JOANNE 36yr old single self-conscious mum, likes pubs, clubs, nights in/out, coast, seeks faithful kind guy 30-45 to share the rest of my life with so no time wasters pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410569**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA **Tel No: 0905 002 1948 Box 408297**

LEANNE young curvy single female looking for smoking hot single guy to enjoy nights in/out full of laughs and good times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410563**

LOU 57, cuddly, 5ft 11ins, seeking kind, caring, honest gent for friendship and memorable times together. **0906 500 3686 Box No: 411471**

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTM fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411037**

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410717**

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410709**

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410305**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location **Tel No: 0905 002 1954 Box 366019**

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410137**

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 409413**

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man seeking

NICK 39 years old from Horsham, seeking female in Horsham, gsoh, for company, and days out. Likes cinema, ice skating, seafront walks, theatre, ten pin bowling, etc, **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4368958**

MARTIN 65 slim ,likes meals out quite drinks out. Seeking female age 40 -70 size 18 plus for mutual fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4370067**

FRIENDLY old man, less than 60, seeks friendly female, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411733**

NICK 39, 6ft, blue eyes, GSOH, likes Formula 1, cinema, ice skating, nights out, walks, seeks female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411623**

KEN 67, slim, N/S, Harley/chopper rider, seeks petite, slim, long haired, quiet spoken, N/S woman for pillion and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411609**

ROBERT blue eyes, 5ft 9ins, slim, loving, caring, easy going, likes swimming, walks, cinema, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3686 Box No: 411487**

TALL pleasant looking retired Manager, 70's, tactile, likes good food, full bodied wine and full bodied cuddlesome woman. **0906 500 3686 Box No: 411409**

HANDSOME male, 5ft 10ins, fun, intelligent, strong, slim, seeks Surrey/Sussex/Kent female, younger or mature in years for discreet fun and passion. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411191**

RETIRED 69yr old male, likes travel, meals out, yoga, OFAC, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411121**

SIMON 32, seeking mature couple for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411107**

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REPLY23 123456 ***hi get in touch...*** then send to **80098**

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LAURA Ashley footstool used 40cmh 65cmw 95cml vgc £35 ono 01865 821471

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Matt hopes for a corker of a match against Leeds

WHEN London Welsh line-up at Headingley this Sunday for the first leg of their Greene King IPA Championship semi-final against Leeds Carnegie, all bets will be off.

That is the opinion of Exiles club captain Matt Corker, who is desperate for another taste of Aviva Premiership rugby with the Dragons.

Corker won promotion to the highest level of English rugby with Welsh in 2012 and has set his sights on a return after the club's relegation to the Championship last year.

This weekend's trip to Leeds also holds extra importance for Corker as the 31-year-old was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation - a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate - after a 31-24 win at Headingley last November.

After a five-month lay-off, Corker, who has made just under 200 appearances for the Exiles, returned to action in March.

The second row forward said: "I'm looking forward to going back there and having a better performance than last time, I was struggling a little bit.

"I had quite a long break, but I think it has been of benefit.

"It's nice for me to get to this stage of the season and feel really fresh and thankfully everything is absolutely perfect with my heart now."

He added: "I love this stage of the season, I've always loved the closing stages and it's what you play for.

"It is such an amazing prize on offer, to get back into the Premiership, and I think that's what makes it so exciting.

"At this stage of the season all bets are off.

"The form book goes out the window, you have got two games and you have got to come out on top."

The Exiles will welcome Leeds to the Kassam Stadium on May 18 for the second leg, and Corker says his memories of 2012 drive a passion for more success with the squad.

"I anticipated before I won the Championship that if you win one, maybe you will be satisfied," he said.

"But it actually makes me even hungrier, just to replicate that success because it was just fantastic.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• Matt Corker goes over for the Exiles during last month's commanding 45-7 win over Jersey (Picture by Martin John)

"I see my role as a senior player to try and help the younger guys see what an opportunity it is.

"We've got some lads who haven't played in the Premiership and some lads who have.

"I will definitely be motivating them and trying to drag them all along with me."

Ford content with his eight years at City

MIKE Ford believes he has left Oxford City in a good position after the club announced last week that he would be stepping down as manager.

The Skrill North club announced Ford's departure in a statement on their website last Wednesday – after five years as manager.

Ford joined City in 2006 as a player and became manager in 2009, guiding the club to the sixth tier of English football in 2012.

City finished third from bottom in the Skrill North, but avoided the drop due to Vauxhall Motors' voluntary relegation.

The statement read: "Following a directors meeting the club have announced that Mike Ford will not be in the First Team Manager role next season.

"The directors wish to sincerely thank Mike for all his hard work and dedication over his eight years at the club," it added.

Ford said: "I'm ok with it, all good things come to an end, and now is probably the right time for some new ideas at the top.

"I have left the club in the Conference North for a third season and have left the club in a better position than when I joined."

Scott praises attacking style

LONDON Welsh winger Nick Scott hopes his hat-trick against Nottingham on April 26 will prove to be a good omen as the club prepares for the Greene King IPA Championship play-offs.

The winger crossed three times in the Exiles' 64-12 win on the last day of the regular season, two years after his last hat-trick for the club in its successful 2011/12 play-off campaign.

Scott went on to score in the semi-final and final as Welsh were crowned champions, and the 23-year-old welcomes a repeat.

He said: "Hopefully it's a good omen. When I score three tries and Seb [Stegmann] scores two, it means the team's attacking really well."

The Exiles face Leeds Carnegie at Headingley on Sunday for the first leg and Scott says Welsh will need to draw from their 31-24 win earlier this season when they overturned a 12-point deficit.

He continued: "When we went up to Headingley they really took it to us and we had to come back from 12 points down, but we're in the mind-set not to let that happen again.

"It's a Championship semi-final and we can't put ourselves in the same position and hope to claw it back."

• Nick Scott scores against Nottingham (Picture: Martin John)

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Bevans, Long, Hawtin and Shama offered new senior deals

YOUNGSTERS GET CHANCE TO IMPRESS

MATT Bevans is one of four development squad players to be offered a new contract at Oxford United for next season's Sky Bet League Two campaign.

The 20-year-old full-back, along with fellow defender Sam Long, midfielder Aidan Hawtin and striker Josh Shama, has impressed manager Gary Waddock.

Bevans has made 11 starts for United this season, while Long has featured five times.

Hawtin and Shama, although yet to make senior appearances, have starred in United's development side and have caught Waddock's eye.

"All four of them have done really well this season," said Waddock.

"They have an energy about them, they work hard at their game and they want to do well for the club.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"The fans have seen what Matt Bevans and Sam Long can do already.

"Josh never stops working in games and is a real handful. Aidan has fought back from a couple of injuries and fully deserves his chance to push on next year.

"It is exciting to see so many young players coming through at the club. They will be part of the future."

United are now able to call upon eleven players that have come through the youth and development system with Max Crocombe, Tyrone Marsh, Josh Ruffels and Callum O'Dowda all with first team football under their belts.

Josh Ashby, James Roberts and Sam Humphreys have also been offered professional contracts this season.

United's chairman Ian Lenagan added: "A lot of hard work and investment has gone into developing our own players, most of them local lads.

"There is a clear pathway now. The Development Squad has done its job this season.

"The aim was to help four or five players progress into the first team squad and next season those players have the opportunity to stake a claim as first team regulars."

However, full-back David Lynn and centre-half Kenzer Lee have not been offered new deals.

Waddock added: "It's never easy.

"Both of them are great lads who I hope will find another club and bounce back from this disappointment."

Waddock said decisions on senior players would be decided over the next few days.

• *Matt Bevans is among four development squad players to be offered a new deal at Oxford United (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

U's boss wants change

GARY Waddock said he has already drawn a line under Oxford United's disappointing end to the season, after their campaign finished with a 3-1 defeat at Northampton Town last Saturday.

Ryan Williams put United in front on seven minutes but the Fulham loanee was sent off for kicking out at Ricky Ravenhill.

The Cobblers took full advantage of having an extra man, with John Marquis, Ivan Toney and Mathias Kouo-Doumbe all netting.

United finished eighth in Sky Bet League Two, nine points adrift of the play-offs, after losing seven of their last eight games.

Waddock told the club: "I have drawn a line under it all.

"I am looking forward to the coming weeks and months to try and assemble a group that are going to do better in terms of results and performances."

• *Gary Waddock (Picture by Les Chase)*

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